

Cleaning of rivers

3871. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "States wavering on plan to clean up rivers" reported in the Pioneer dated 29th March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the national River Conservation Authority's proposal to clean rivers in various States has met with lukewarm response from States;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to clean the rivers in various States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National River Conservation Authority met under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 13-3-2001. All the participating States of National River Conservation Plan attended the meeting and unanimously endorsed the resolution regarding cleaning of rivers.

(b) Under National River Conservation Plan, various schemes of pollution abatement like sewage interception and diversion, sewage treatment plant, crematoria, low cost sanitation and river front development have been taken up for 27 rivers in 16 States and 149 towns. The approved cost of these works is Rs. 3080 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 614 crore has been incurred on the Plan so far.

Funds for development of forests in Andhra Pradesh

3872. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for development of forests in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years;

(b) whether the funds allotted for the purpose during this period have been inadequate; and

(c) if so, the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Details of the funds provided to Andhra Pradesh for forest development during the last five years under the centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests are given below:

Rs. in lakhs

Financial year	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Funds provided	427.78	384.88	516.85	733.28	913.72

For achieving the goal of 33% green cover in the country, as envisaged in the National Forest Policy 1988, substantially higher allocations to the forestry sector are required. The need for ensuring higher allocations to this sector under the State Plan Schemes has been emphasised from time to time to the State Governments, including Andhra Pradesh. Eliciting external assistance for implementing forestry projects in various States is also a continuing endeavour of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Sanction of such proposals is dependent upon the policies of the external-aid agencies in this regard from time to time.

Funds for Environment and Forestry Sector

3873. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one percent of the total plan outlays of the State Governments and Central Government is allocated to the Environment and Forestry sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with actual utilisation, State-wise, during last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase allocation and better utilisation of funds?